

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 15 of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, the present invention provides a [[A]] multimedia information decoder unit having error concealment and fast muting capabilities. The audio decoder provides error concealment using a dynamic recovery delay that is based on the error rate of an input digital bitstream and also uses frame repeating. The decoder also allows fast audio muting whereby audio can be muted within two audio frames of a mute signal that immediately freezes the video frame, e.g., for use in a channel change situation. With respect to the dynamic recovery delay, a template of fixed length, e.g., 24 audio frames, is used to inspect the last frames within the template. If error is found in this fixed template, then the error sum is used as an index into a table length which provides a dynamic template length. Error within the dynamic template length is then computed and if larger than a prescribed tolerance, the current frame is muted. This allows the recovery delay to be adaptive and based on the error rate while still allowing mute merging. When muting is performed, smoothed muting can be used in one embodiment and in another embodiment, frame repeating can be performed. [[.]]